

AUG 23 2004

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Dated: August 19, 2004

Signature:

(Rebecca McElroy)

Docket No.: 251502006900
Client Reference N.72646F
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Hendrik L. BIJL et al.

Application No.: 08/821,025

Filed: March 19, 1997

For: **PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF A
GRANULAR MICROBIAL BIOMASS AND
ISOLATION OF A COMPOUND
THEREFROM**

Art Unit: 1651

Examiner: Irene Marx

*Fee
Purpose
only*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination in the above-referenced case. A Notice of Appeal was filed 15 July 2004 in response to a final Office action mailed 17 February 2004. This Amendment and Request for Continued Examination are thus filed within the two-month period set for filing an Appeal Brief.

It is believed that the amendments to the claims are helpful in advancing prosecution.

Reconsideration with respect to the amended claims is respectfully requested.

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PRE-PAID ACCOUNTABILITY	
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO.	
03/1952	
FEE CODE	VALUE FURNISHED
1202	144

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In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket No. 251502006900.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 19, 2004

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